

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Technical Assistance Site Report



**Prepared for Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
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Technical Assistance

This report covers continuing technical assistance related to supporting Kansas SRS' efforts to improve safety and risk assessment practices and to increase consistency in decision making in the Screening and Intake process. An initial site visit occurred on June 16, 2005. On the basis of the discussion during the June 16 site visit and a review of numerous documents, NRCCPS representative, Mary Jo Pankoke, prepared a number of observations to share with the SRS staff. Documents reviewed include the following:

- Relevant Kansas Statutes
- Relevant Sections of Kansas Administrative Regulation
- SRS Policy and Procedure Manual for Intake
- Intake Form
- Interview/Question Guide for Reporters
- Report prepared by Barry Salovitz entitled "Child Maltreatment Definitions: National Trends and the State of Kansas"
- Safety and Risk Assessment Tools
- Report prepared by Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc. entitled "Risk Assessment Validation Final Report"
- Quality Assurance Reports
- Program Evaluation Report on Topeka Shawnee County Pilot Project

Site Visit

A second site visit occurred on July 22 and included SRS Central Office staff and Mary Jo Pankoke representing the NRCCPS. During this site visit, Mary Jo Pankoke shared observations and recommendations from her review of documents. Topics discussed during the meeting included:

- CPS Policy
 - Purpose of CPS & Families to be Served
 - Structure for Receipt of Reports
 - Information Standards
 - Screening Criteria
 - Response Determination
 - Child in Need of Care: Non Abuse/Neglect
- Procedures
 - Intake Form
 - Safety Assessment
 - Risk Assessment
- Staff Development

- Supervision
- Quality Assurance
- Pilot Project in Topeka Shawnee County

Other topics discussed during the meeting included areas of focus and outcomes for technical assistance to be provided by NRCCPS. Consensus was reached that the ultimate goal is to improve safety assessment and analysis in the Intake and Screening process. Final and intermediate outcomes for technical assistance were identified to be included in a logic model. A conference call was scheduled for August 3 during which a work plan will be developed that identifies specific tasks and assigns responsibility for completing those tasks.

Next Steps

- NRCCPS will draft a logic model for technical assistance
- Paula Ellis and other SRS Central Office staff will meet with Mary Jo Pankoke via conference call on August 3 to review the logic model and to draft a work plan.
- NRCCPS will finalize the logic model and work plan.
- NRCCPS and SRS Central Office staff will plan a one-day meeting in September with Program Administrators, Intake and Assessment & Screening Work Groups, and Protection Center Supervisors. Purpose of the meeting will be to provide an orientation to the field of risk and safety assessment, the difference between the concepts of risk and safety, and how screening of CPS cases can be done on the basis of safety.
- NRCCPS and SRS Central Office staff will meet with Program Administrators, Intake and Assessment & Screening Work Groups, and Protection Center Supervisors on September 15.
- Necessary changes in Policy, Screening Criteria, and the Intake Form will be made.